

REMARKS

The Office Action dated January 11, 2008, and subsequent Advisory Action dated May 27, 2008, have been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

In this Response, claims 1-2, 6-9, 13-14, 17-18, and 22-24 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the present invention. Claims 3, 10, and 19 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 25 has been added. Accordingly, claims 1-2, 4-9, 11-18, and 20-25 are currently pending in the application, of which claims 1, 8, 17, and 24-25 are independent claims. Applicant requests entry of the above amendments because the above amendments place the claims in better condition for allowance.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the Examiner's Interview of April 23, 2008. The Applicant further thanks the Examiner for indicating, during the Examiner's Interview, that claims 3, 10, and 19, contain allowable subject matter, and for requesting Applicant amend the independent claims with the allowable subject matter of dependent claims 3, 10, and 19. Accordingly, independent claims 1, 8, 17, and 24 have been amended and claim 25 has been added, each independent claim incorporating the allowable subject matter recited in dependent claims 3, 10, and 19, respectively. Accordingly, claims 3, 10, and 19 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Furthermore, claims 1-2, 6-9, 13-14, 17-18, and 22-24 have been amended to

more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the present invention.

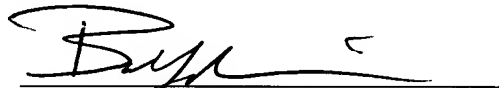
In view of the above amendments, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and timely withdrawal of the pending rejections, and respectfully submits that claims 1, 8, 17, and 24-25, and the claims that depend therefrom, are now in condition for allowance.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that all of claims 1-2, 4-9, 11-18, and 20-25 be allowed, and this present application be passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, Applicant's undersigned representative at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: Request for Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal
Additional Claim Fee Transmittal
Petition for Extension of Time
Check No. 018922